

Classical Religions

Confucianism

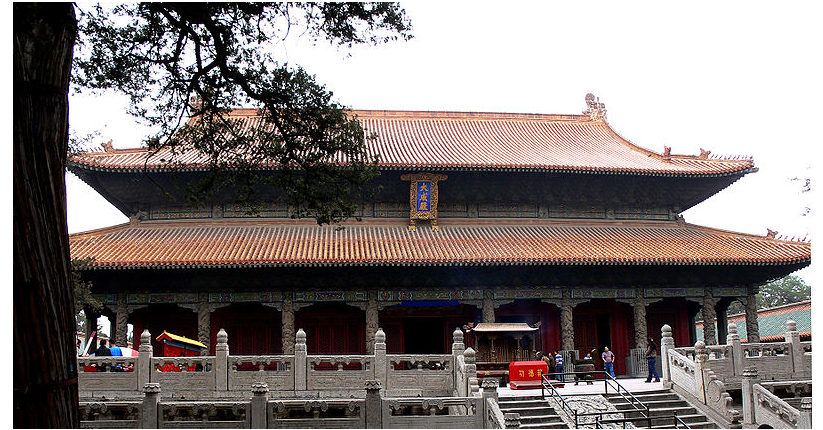


Drawing of Confucius

- Started by Confucius (551-479 BCE) during the Warring States Period in China
- Offers solutions to the problems plaguing China
 - Focus on life rather than the afterlife
 - *Text: Analects*
- Does not advocate a specific deity
 - Emphasizes worship of ancestors

Basic Beliefs of Confucianism

- Emphasizes *li*
 - the “rituals” of everyday life
- Goal is to promote harmony on Earth through relationships
 - **Five Relationships**
- Filial Piety – loyalty to your family
- Education



Dacheng Temple in Confucius' hometown of Qufu in China.

Confucius 5 Relationships

- 1) Emperor/subject - the emperor has the responsibility to take care of his subjects, and subjects must obey the emperor
- 2) Father/son - the father takes care of the son, and the son obeys the father
- 3) Older brother/younger brother - the older brother takes care of the younger brother, who in turn obeys him
- 4) Husband/wife - the husband takes care of the wife, who in turn obeys him
- 5) Friend/friend - The only relationship that does not assume inequality should be characterized by mutual care and obedience

FILIAL PIETY



Filial Piety
Ways of the World, First Edition
National Palace Museum, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China

- The Song dynasty painting served as an illustration of an ancient Confucian text called the “**Classic of Filial Piety**,” originally composed sometime around the 4th century BCE and subsequently reissued many times.
- Here, a son kneels submissively in front of his parents.
- The long-enduring social order that Confucius advocated began at home with unquestioning obedience and the utmost respect for parents and other senior members of the family.

Confucius



Statue of Confucius at
the Confucius Temple
in Beijing China



Tomb of Confucius in
Qufu China

Confucius, *The Analects*, 400s BCE

- “He who exercises government by means of his virtue may be compared to the north polar star, which keeps its place and all the stars turn toward it.”
- “The man of virtue is not left to stand alone. He who practices virtue will have neighbors.”
- **“What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.”**
- “The man of virtue is driven by responsibility; the non-virtuous man is driven by profit. “
- “When a ruler’s personal conduct is correct, his government is effective without the issuing of orders. If his personal conduct is not correct, he may issue orders, but they will not be followed.”
- “The relation between wise rulers and their inferiors is like that between the wind and the grass. The grass must bend when the wind blows across it.”
- “To give one's self earnestly to the duties due to men, and, while respecting spiritual beings, to keep distant from them, may be called wisdom.”

Social Impact of Confucianism

- Becomes foundation of Chinese government
- It confirmed the power of the emperor, but held him responsible for his people
- Reinforced importance of patriarchal relationships
- Reinforced family as the center of Chinese society
- Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore are influenced by Confucian ethic



Family altar in Malaysian Chinese home. Family is inviting ancestors to partake in the Hungry Ghost festival

Daoism (Taoism)



- Founded by Laozi (6th cent. BCE?) during the Warring States Period
- Everything revolves around the Dao
- Goal: Create societal harmony by living according to the natural laws of the universe
- A chief characteristic is **wuwei**: or a disengagement from the affairs of the world, including government. The less government, the better.
- Appealed to peasants in China because of their connection to the land

- Daoism was radically different from Confucianism
- Daoists viewed education and moral striving as useless
- Opposed many Confucian ideas
- Believed that striving made things worse
- In the face of disorder and chaos, urged withdrawal into the world of nature
- Encouraged behavior that was spontaneous, individualistic, and natural
- Emphasized nature and its mysterious patterns
- Daoism encouraged people to live in nature and to live naturally



Daoism



Impact of Daoism

- Encourages respect for nature
- Heavily influenced Chinese art and literature
 - Landscape paintings
- Yoga and meditation
- Hygiene and cleanliness
- **Medicine** – doctors working to restore natural balance among forces in a person's body
- **Poetry**
 - Wrote about nature and human involvement with it
- **Metallurgy** – scholars tried to understand the natural properties of metals and how to transform
- **Architecture** – attempted to create structures that integrated well with surroundings



Balance between Yin
(feminine, dark) and Yang
(masculine, light)

Daoist Architectural Influence

- They built temples which conformed to the contours of the land. They also built their temples with wooden frames, symmetrically, and included gardens with pavilions or walkways, or incorporated the natural scenery into the building



- Both Confucianism and Daoism encourage self knowledge and acceptance of the ways things are. However, Confucianism is activist and extroverted, and Daoism is reflective and introspective. The same individual may believe in the importance of both belief systems, unlike many people in western societies who think that a person may only adhere to one belief system or another.

Hinduism

- Began in India c.1500 BCE
- One god in many different forms
 - Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva
 - Krishna
- Sacred Texts
 - Vedas, Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads



Shiva, the Destroyer

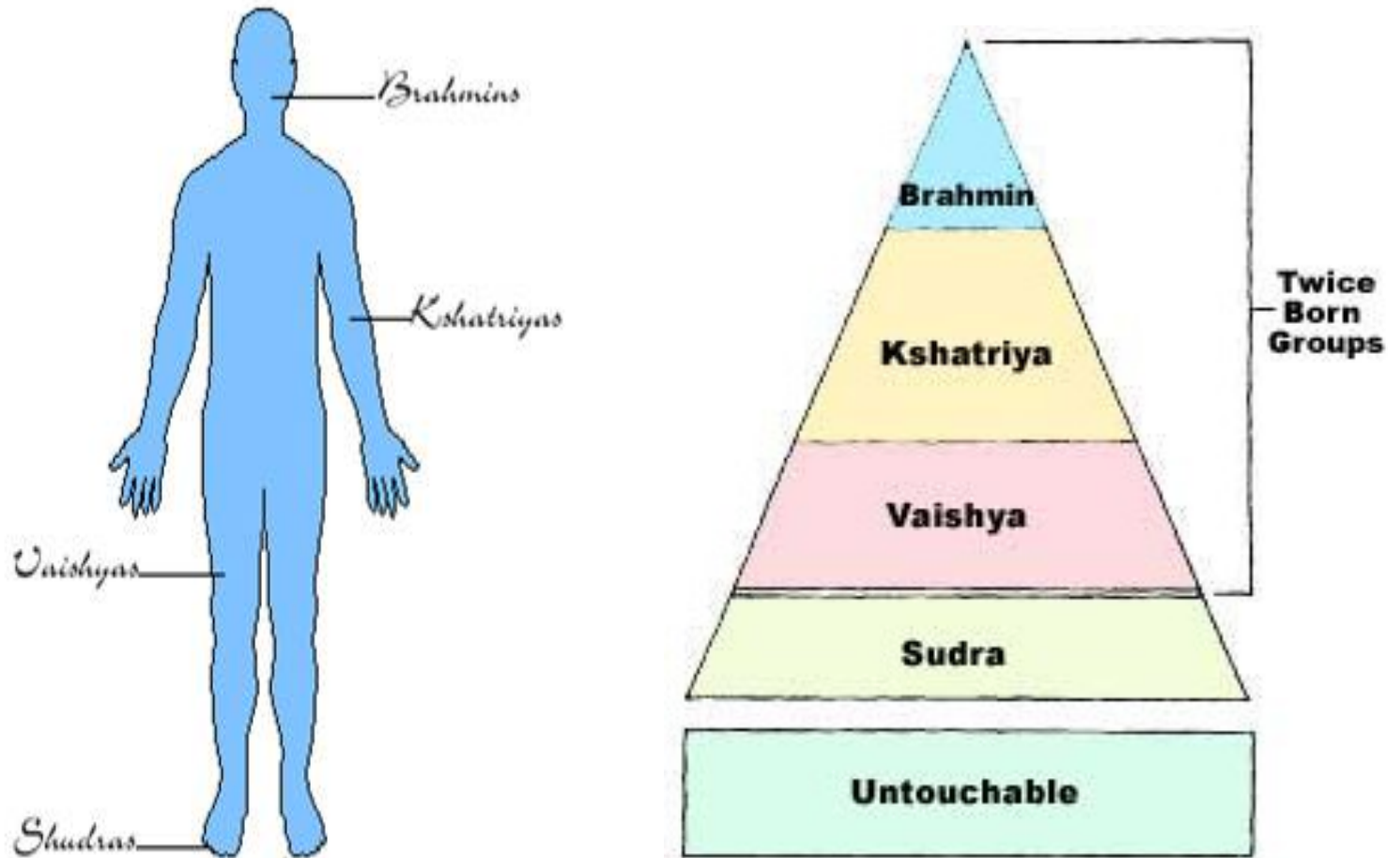
Basic Beliefs of Hinduism

- Atman
- Major Ideas
 - Dharma (duty)
 - Karma (action)
 - Samsara (cycle of life)
 - Moksha (liberation)
- Yogas
 - Paths or practices
 - Several different types



Kali, goddess of death and destruction

Social Impact of Hinduism



Modern Untouchables



Modern India has 160 million untouchables or approximately 15% of India's population.

Buddhism

- Founded by Siddhartha Gautama (563-483 BCE)
 - Born into kshatriya caste
- Reform movement of Hinduism
 - No specific deity?
 - Rejects the atman
 - Believes in spiritual equality
 - No caste system



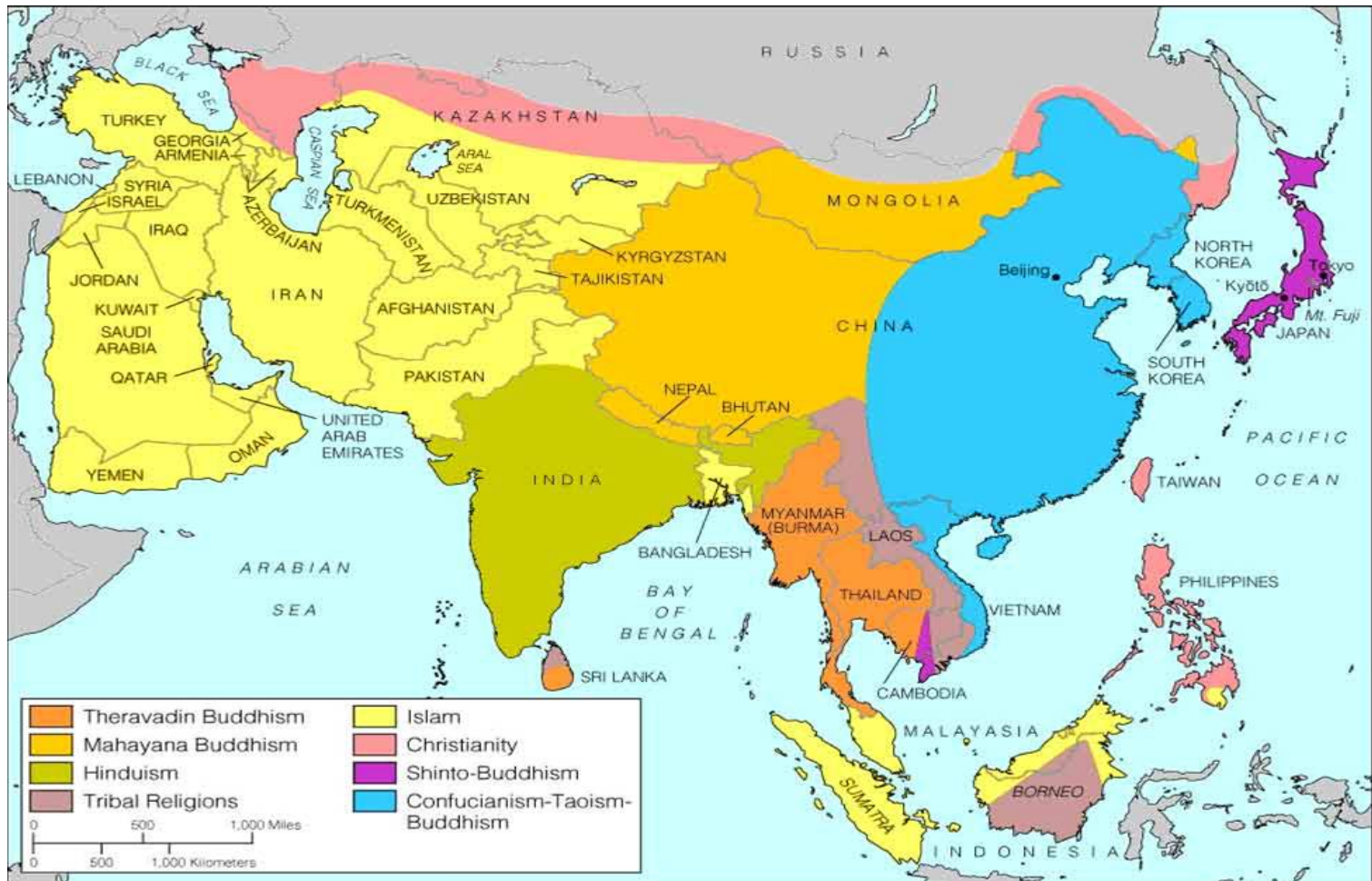
Basic Beliefs of Buddhism

- Four Noble Truths
 - Life is suffering
 - Desire causes suffering
 - End suffering by ending desire
 - To end desire follow the Eightfold Path
 - Right view, right intention, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, right concentration



Buddhist Wheel of Life; the eight spokes represent the Eightfold Path

Spread of Buddhism



Social Impact of Buddhism

- Spread to Central Asia, East Asia, & SE Asia
 - Often blends with existing beliefs
- Built monasteries for men and women
 - Provides elite women an alternative to traditional living



Zoroastrianism

- Founded by Zarathushtra (Zoroaster) c. 600 BCE
- God Ahura Mazda which produces only good
 - Evil is always trying to destroy the work of Ahura Mazda
- Became the state religion of the Persian Empire



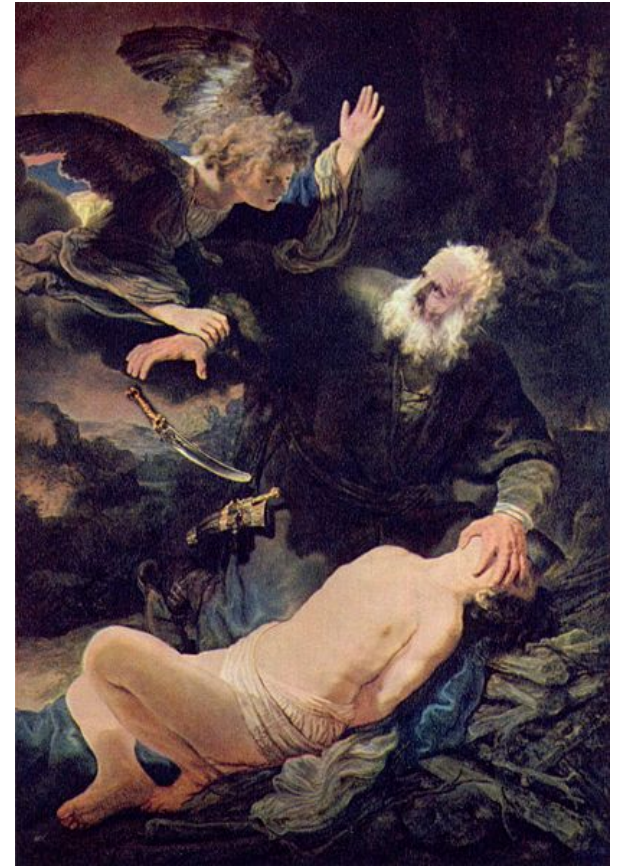
Impact of Zoroastrianism

- 200,000 worldwide
- Influence on other religions
 - God vs. Satan
 - the Soul
 - Heaven & Hell
 - Virgin birth of savior
 - Resurrection
 - Day of Judgement



Judaism

- Monotheistic
 - Yahweh (Yhwh)
- Abraham considered “father” of the Jews
- Hebrews are the chosen people of God & Canaan is the chosen land
- Messiah will create God’s kingdom on Earth



Abraham and Issac by
Rembrandt

Basic Beliefs of Judaism



Moses by Rembrandt

- Death is not the end of human existence
 - Focus on life instead of afterlife
- Believe dead will be physically resurrected
- One is saved through commitment to being moral to God.
 - 614 Rabbinical laws

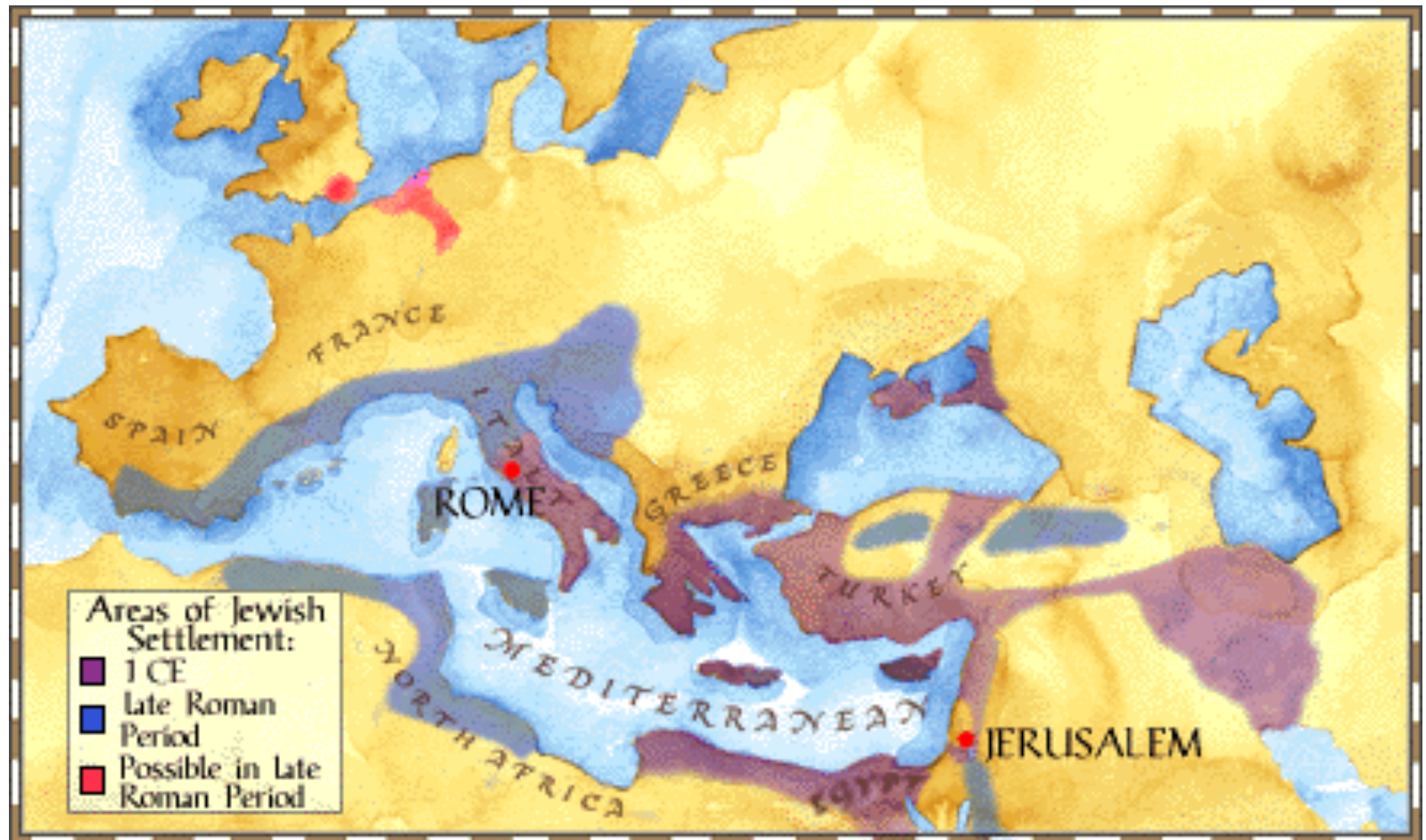
Social Impact of Judaism

- Short lived kingdom in the Middle East
- Jewish Diaspora
- Heavy emphasis on tradition & culture
 - Language, diet, holidays, etc.
- Patriarchal community
 - Matrilineal descent



Israel as a united monarchy lasted from 1050-930 BCE. Eventually it was divided into two kingdoms. The northern kingdom of Israel would last until 720 BCE. The southern kingdom of Judah would last until 586. The fall of the two kingdoms led to Jewish Diaspora.

The Diaspora



Early Rome Religion

- Early Romans honor guardian spirits and gods
 - Jupiter
 - Juno
 - Minerva
- •Assimilate Greek Rituals
festivals –sacrifices
- •Change names of gods/goddesses



Roman Religion Cont.

- Polytheistic
- Similar to Greek Gods & Goddesses
- Controlled Nature
- •Scientists Pliny –proved the world was round
- Galen –wrote the encyclopedia of medicine
- •No Philosophy
- Romans concentrated on practical thingsBuilt great roads
 - Constructed dams, bridges, aqueducts, sewage & public baths
 - Built civic and religious buildings

Christian Persecution

- Persecuted by the Romans for about 250 years
Christians were forced to fight in Roman circuses
 - Christians were used as the scapegoat for the downfall of Roman Empire
 - Christians were burned alive & crucified
Martyrs were people who chose to die rather than give up their religious beliefs
- Constantine Roman general who saw a sign in the sky telling him to worship the Christian god
- Became Emperor of Rome; Became the defender of Christianity
 - Issued the *Edit of Milan* in 313 AD –ended the persecution of the Christians -legalizes Christianity
 - Constantine was baptized a Christian shortly before his death

Greek Philosophers

- Philosopher – lover of wisdom
- Much of modern science has its roots in Greece
- **Socrates**
 - - Socratic Method – poses questions to challenge students
 - - Condemned to death for his beliefs
 - “Corrupting the Youth of Athens”
- **Plato**
 - - Established the Academy
 - - *The Republic* – vision of an ideal state.
- **Aristotle**
 - - “The golden mean” – moderation not extremes
 - - Established the Lyceum



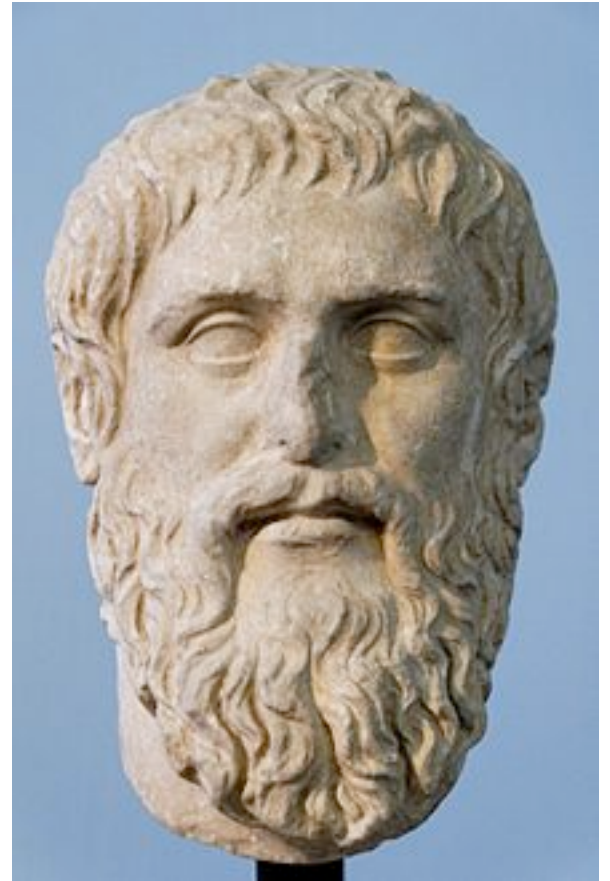
Herodotus – father of history

Trial of Socrates



Plato

- Student of Socrates
- Political Science
- Influential Writings
- Founded school for philosophy and science



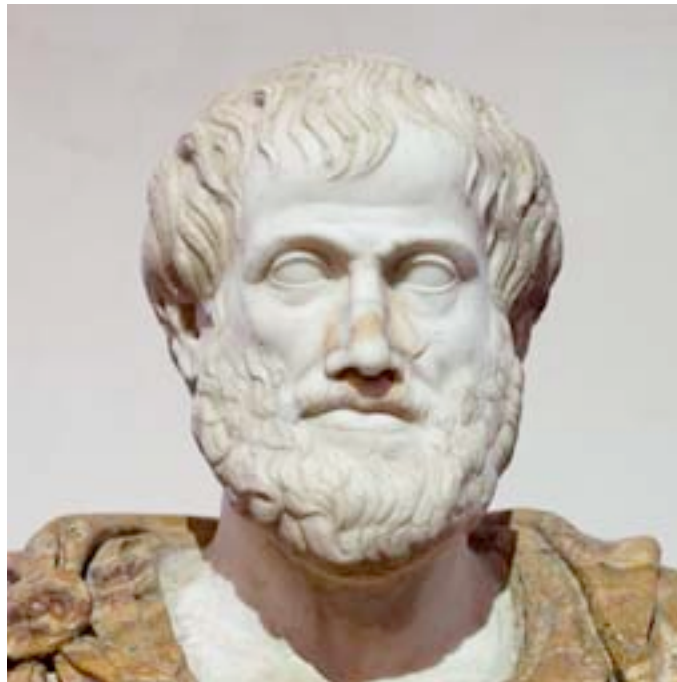
QUOTES from Plato

- "...If you ask what is the good of education in general, the answer is easy; that education makes good men, and that good men act nobly."
- "(I) do to others as I would they should do to me."
- "Our object in the construction of the State is the greatest happiness of the whole, and not that of any one class."



Aristotle

- Student of Plato and teacher of Alexander the Great
- Scientific Method
- Classification of living things





Hippocrates: Hippocratic Oath

A list of rules about practicing medicine that doctors today still promise to follow

“Father of
Modern
Medicine”

1. Honor their teachers

2. Do their best for the sick

3. Never give poisons

4. Keep the secrets of patients

Believed that
disease came
from natural
causes not evil
spirits

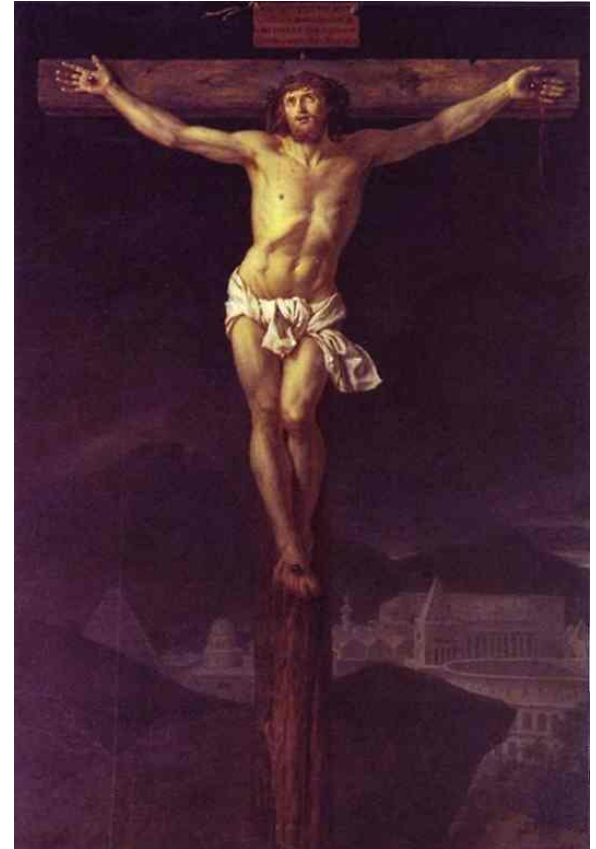
Basic Beliefs of Christianity



- Founded by Jesus of Nazareth (c.6 BCE – c.30 CE)
 - Believed to be Son of God
- Reform movement of Judaism
 - New covenant downplayed “the law”
- Holy Trinity

Basic Beliefs of Christianity

- Resurrection of the body and eternal life
 - Jesus crucifixion redeemed humans of their sins
- Faith in Jesus allows one to enter heaven
- Sacraments
- Holidays

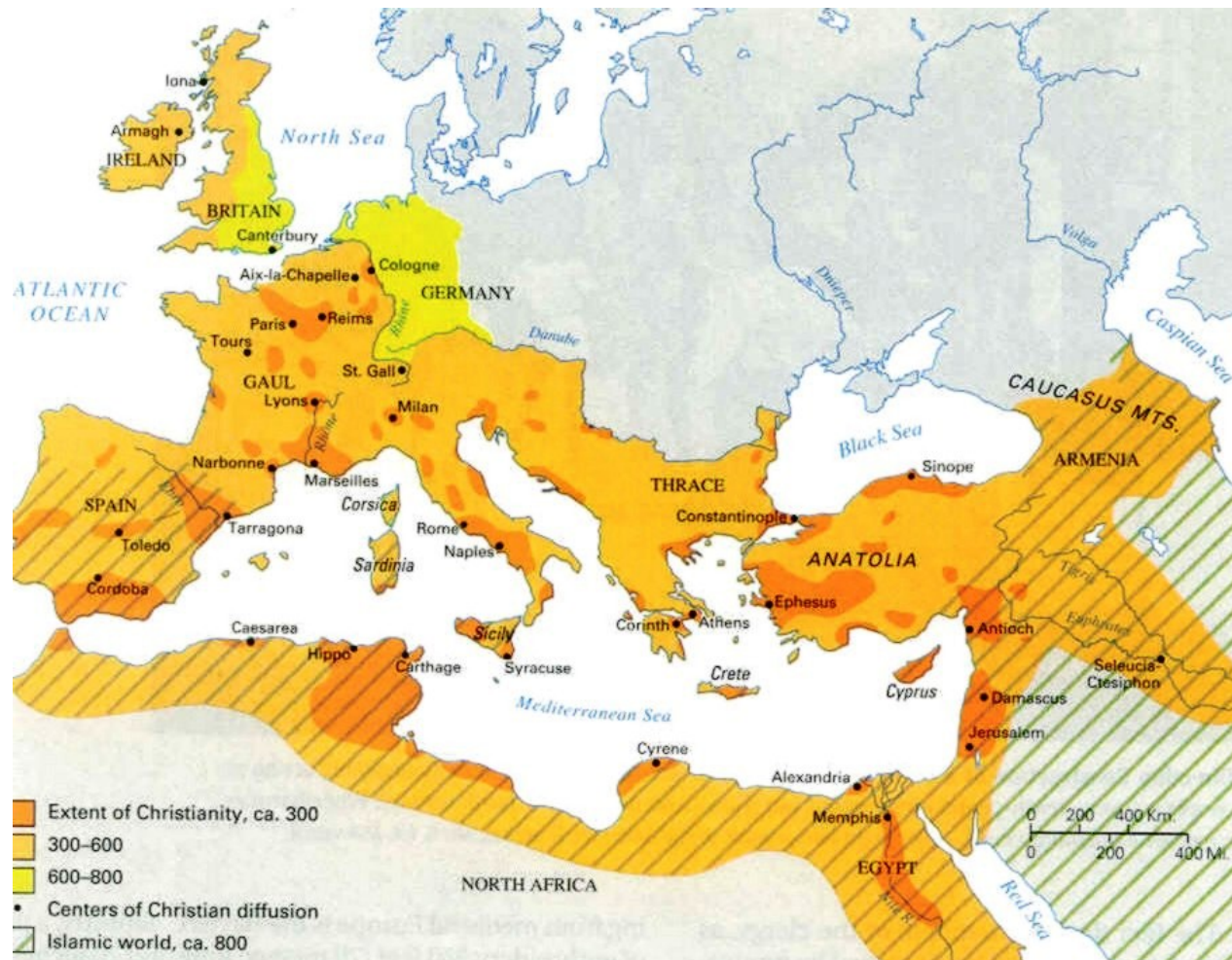


Social Impact of Christianity



- Appealed to lower classes of Roman Empire
- Created a new system of ethics
- Formal church organization emerged in 1st/2nd century CE

Spread of Christianity



Religious Beliefs and Architecture

Greek Realism

- Hellenistic age: move away from classical art and into **realism**
 - **Life-like depictions of humans**
- Largest sculpture in era – Colossus of Rhodes
- Hellenistic was more natural works of art
 - Carved ordinary people as old and wrinkled
- By 150 B.C.E. Hellenistic world was in decline and Rome was growing in strength



Colossus of Rhodes





Hinduism in India



Indian temple architecture reflects the
religious cosmology of Hinduism

Hinduism in India



SANCHI STUPA 240 BCE (INDIA)



You are looking at the oldest stone structure in India. It's a stupa. Stupas are round structures usually housing Buddhist relics. Buddhists use Stupas as places of meditation. This one was commissioned by Ashoka himself. His wife directly oversaw the construction as Sanchi was both her hometown and the site of her marriage to Ashoka.

Buddha



Monastics Life



Buddhist monestary in Bhuta



Buddhism in China

Buddhism spread to China around 500 BCE



Early Spread of Buddhism



Christianity in Rome

Usually would convey power of Roman Empire



These two scenes show Jesus carrying the cross and being mocked by a Roman soldier.

This symbol, called a Chi-Rho, represents Jesus Christ. It is based on the first two letters of the word "Christ" in Greek.

Roman sculpture above, depicting the sacking of Jerusalem by a Roman army in 70 CE



Greco-Roman Architecture

The convergence of Greco-Roman culture and Buddhist beliefs affected the development of unique sculptural developments.



Gandhara Buddhas (Greco-Roman Architecture)



which exemplify a syncretism in which Hellenistic veneration for the body is combined with Buddhist symbols.

Blending of cultures



Greek dramas



The Greek amphitheater at Miletus.



The Spread of Buddhism and Christianity

